

probably 400 or 500 volunteers who had come from around the country from their various Red Cross entities, I assume from about every State in the country.

I mention this because volunteers are the lifeblood of the American Red Cross. I have seen it directly in my own life, both as a doctor, as a physician, of course, as a citizen, as well as a Senator. These volunteers affected my life in a very direct way. I told them yesterday, as I ran the multiorgan transplant center at Vanderbilt, we did heart transplants, we did lung transplants, bone marrow transplants, we transplanted pancreases, we transplanted livers, transplanted kidneys. None of that could take place without the Red Cross because all of the blood that is required in terms of transfusions—liver transplants especially, probably heart transplants, secondly, and lung transplants, all of that blood comes from where? The Red Cross, from volunteers who manage the Red Cross facility and from the people who actually donate their blood.

I would not have done all of the heart transplants I have done if it were not for the Red Cross, the volunteers associated with the Red Cross. People do not think about how much we depend on the volunteers.

Jump, fast forward, 15 years and go to New Orleans. About 3 days after the levees broke, I was in New Orleans, more as a physician, as a volunteer, than as a Senator. I was in the airport there in September with evacuees who lost everything—their medicines, sometimes their family members, clothes, their home. Sitting there on the baggage belts, coming in on the baggage carts, being unloaded from helicopters, all they needed at that point in time was someone to talk to, for the most part—some needed medical help—someone to talk to and a hot meal to be comforted, some semblance of security, having lost everything.

So who was there? Who was there right up front? It was the Red Cross. Once again, and almost instantaneously, shelters sprung up in Tennessee. But Alabama, Mississippi, Florida, Georgia, and Texas, of course, all opened their doors to the gulf coast evacuees.

By the end of that week, 675 Red Cross shelters had opened up in 23 States, which was the single largest response to a natural disaster in Red Cross history. Remarkable. Remarkable.

Then, jump forward about a few months to what happened last month in Tennessee. We had tornadoes that came right through middle Tennessee and all through west Tennessee about 2 or 3 weeks apart. Thousands of homes were damaged. Many people lost their lives.

Once again, it was the Red Cross that came in and set their trucks, had food cooked, talked to people, arranged for places for people to stay who had just lost their homes. There were tens of

thousands of meals served. People were taken care of. And there was mental health care in terms of the devastation people felt, the depression people felt. They came to that Red Cross van to be able to talk to somebody.

I mention those three examples because I have seen them. I saw it in Tennessee when I was back there talking to people whose homes had been destroyed. I saw it in New Orleans, 3 days after those levees broke. And I saw it for years and years and years, for 20 years of my life, when I saw it every day, working in hospitals, with that donation of blood.

It is the 125th anniversary of the Red Cross. They had a gala last night. Karyn, my wife, was one of the co-chairs for that gala. We were there to see the generosity of people who have volunteered and also have contributed. One person who was honored last night had given \$9 million—one person had given \$9 million—to the Red Cross.

It takes a lot of people working together. But all of that does provide a symbol of hope and compassion and strength and endurance. It is going to take the continued commitment of those volunteers to continue that, so I do want to thank you, those of you who might be listening who have volunteered and will volunteer for the American Red Cross.

MOTHER'S DAY

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, one last item, a very important statement, and then we will close down. But it is very important and people will recognize why.

This Sunday, millions of families around the world will celebrate their moms. I was changing my reservations around. I know a lot of people are scurrying around for reservations. I should be cooking at home that day, I guess, but I am looking for an appropriate place for reservations, shifting it from Sunday afternoon to Sunday evening.

Restaurants will be packed on Sunday. Living rooms will be packed full, crammed full of aunts and uncles and fidgety children.

Families will warmly “remember when” to show their moms they love them. I have three boys, and they let me know all the time how much they love their mom. But I don't know where all three boys are going to be. They are going to be traveling all over the country today, so I am trying to get them together as well—all the challenges of Mother's Day.

Mother's Day, as we all know, is the busiest long distance calling day of the year. It accounts for more than one-fifth of all the floral purchases made for the holidays that 1 day.

We typically start the day by going to church and then gathering either in the afternoon or the evening—a tradition that millions and millions and millions of people will celebrate and have celebrated over the years.

The celebrations of our moms have gone back millennia. The ancient

Greeks celebrated a holiday in honor of a mythological mother of gods. Ancient Romans celebrated their mother goddess symbol. In the British Isles and Celtic Europe, the people honored the goddess Brigid in a spring celebration of motherhood.

Mother's Day in America got its start in West Virginia in 1858, led by Anna Reeves Jarvis, a local schoolteacher. After years of strenuous petitioning, Mother's Day finally became an official American holiday in 1914. It was passed by the U.S. Congress as a joint resolution and signed by President Woodrow Wilson.

Today, 90 years later, Mother's Day is celebrated all over the world—all over the world—including Denmark, Finland, Italy, Turkey, Australia, and Belgium.

It is celebrated by the humble and by the proud throughout the ages and across continents.

Abraham Lincoln said of his mom:

All that I am, or hope to be, I owe to my angel mother.

Human nature does bind us to our mothers. The Bible instructs us to respect and obey them. Mothers give us the gift we can never return—life itself.

I will close with a quote by the basketball legend Kareem Abdul Jabar. His mom knew him well, and I suspect never stopped looking after him. He once confessed:

My mother had to send me to the movies with my birth certificate, so that I wouldn't have to pay the extra fifty cents the adults had to pay.

I do want to wish a happy Mother's Day to all of the mothers of the world.

To my own mother, who I miss very much, her daily image comes down on just about everything I do in terms of what she might have done, what she would do, what she would whisper into my ear to do.

To my own wife, Karyn, the mother of our three boys, Jonathan, Harrison, and Bryan, I say thank you, I love you. You are the rock that holds our family together and makes everything possible.

TRIBUTE TO DAVID WILLIAMS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to the Kentucky Senate President, David Williams. He is a master legislator, a fighter for the people of Kentucky, and a true friend.

David has served the people of the 16th Senate District since 1987, and has served as Senate President since 2000. In his leadership position, he is one of the dominant figures in Kentucky politics. David and I have worked together on many issues important to the Commonwealth over the years, and I have always been impressed by his knowledge, ability, and talent to persuade others. David defends his ideas and his principles well, and as a result has positively influenced much of the legislation that comes out of the state capital.

Every Kentuckian benefits from having David Williams as Senate President. This year, the Kentucky State